

In re Patent Application of:
KELVIN TODD EVANS
Serial No. 10/620,283
Filing Date: 7/15/2003

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A manifold comprising:

an elongate tubular body having a first longitudinal port and an opposing second longitudinal port for providing fluid flow through the elongate tubular body along a longitudinal axis thereof, the elongate tubular body having at least one effluent retention portion and at least one conduit portion formed therein, wherein the at least one effluent retention portion and the at least one conduit portion extend longitudinally along the longitudinal axis, and wherein an inner cross-sectional area of the elongate tubular member body for the at least one effluent retention portion is greater than the inner cross-sectional area for the at least one conduit portion such that fluid entering the elongate tubular member body passes through the at least one conduit portion and is retained within the at least one effluent retention portion during use of the manifold having when the longitudinal axis is generally horizontal;

a first transverse port positioned between the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a transverse fluid flow from a first effluent retention portion of the at least one effluent retention portion, the first transverse port having an axis within a plane of and generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis;

a second transverse port positioned between the first transverse port and at least one of the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a second transverse fluid flow from a second effluent retention portion, the second transverse port having an axis within the plane of and generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis, wherein the first and second transverse ports extend outwardly from the longitudinal axis in opposing directions; and

opposing first and second ribs extending outwardly from an outside surface of the at least one conduit portion of the tubular body, wherein the first and second ribs radially extend from the longitudinal axis and are orthogonal to the plane having the transverse

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port axes and longitudinal axis therein, and wherein the ribs provide means for attaching to a clamping device when supporting the manifold in a desired location and elevation during an installation of the manifold.

2. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein each of the ports is closed, and wherein a cut is made in the manifold for opening a selected one of the ports for permitting fluid flow therethrough.

3. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports are centered about a the longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body.

4. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein the manifold comprises ~~a third~~ second and third effluent retention portions extending along the longitudinal axis and a third transverse port, and wherein the first transverse port extends from the first effluent retention portion for directing fluid flow in a first transverse direction, and the second and third transverse ports respectively extend from the second and third effluent retention portions for directing flow into a second transverse direction, which second transverse direction radially opposes the first transverse direction.

5. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 4, wherein a top plan view of the manifold comprises a mirror image of a bottom plan view of the manifold.

6. (Previously presented) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports comprise male and female connections respectively, each for connecting to a manifold having a similar form thereto.

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7. (Currently Amended) A manifold comprising:

an elongate tubular body having a first longitudinal port and an opposing second longitudinal port for providing fluid flow therethrough, the elongate tubular body having at least one effluent retention portion and at least one conduit portion formed therein , wherein the at least one effluent retention portion and the at least one conduit portion extend longitudinally along the longitudinal axis, and wherein an inner cross-sectional area of the elongate tubular ~~member~~ body for the at least one effluent retention portion is greater than the inner cross-sectional area for the at least one conduit portion such that fluid entering the elongate tubular ~~member~~ body passes through the at least one conduit portion and is retained within the at least one effluent retention portion during use of the manifold ~~having~~ when the longitudinal axis is generally horizontal;

a first transverse port positioned between the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a transverse fluid flow from the elongate tubular body in a first transverse direction;

a second transverse port positioned between the ~~first~~ first and second longitudinal ports for providing a second transverse fluid flow from the elongate tubular body in a second transverse direction , wherein the first and second transverse ports extend outwardly from the longitudinal axis in opposing directions; and

at least one rib extending outwardly from an outside surface of the at least one conduit portion of the tubular body orthogonally to a plane having an axis of at least one transverse port and ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body therein.

8. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein each of the ports is closed, and wherein a cut is made in the manifold for opening a selected one of the ports for permitting fluid flow therethrough.

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9. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the first and second transverse ports extends from the at least one effluent retention portion.

10. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the at least one rib comprises opposing first and second ribs radially extending from the elongate tubular body along the longitudinal axis.

11. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports are centered about the longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body.

12. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 11, wherein axes of the first and second transverse ports lie within a single plane of and are generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis.

13. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the at least one effluent retention portion comprises first, second, and third effluent retention portions and the manifold comprises a ~~third effluent retention portion and a third~~ transverse port, and wherein the first transverse port extends from the first effluent retention portion for directing fluid flow in a the first transverse direction, and the second and third transverse ports respectively extend from the second and third effluent retention portions for directing flow into a the second transverse direction, which second transverse direction radially opposes the first transverse direction.

14. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 13, wherein the first transverse port is positioned between the second and third transverse ports.

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15. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 13, wherein the at least one rib comprises opposing first and second ribs radially extending from the elongate tubular body along the longitudinal axis.

16. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 15, wherein a top plan view of the manifold comprises a mirror image of a bottom plan view of the manifold.

17. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports comprise a male and a female connection respectively, each for connecting to a manifold having a similar form thereto.

18. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, further comprising a septic tank pipe connected to the first transverse port and a drain field pipe connected to the second transverse port for providing fluid flow therebetween.

19. (Currently Amended) A manifold comprising:

an elongate tubular body having an input conduit portion and an opposing output conduit portion extending along a longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body, and an intermediate portion longitudinally extending therebetween;

wherein an inner cross-sectional area of the elongate tubular body for the intermediate portion is greater than the inner cross-sectional area of input and output conduit portions such that fluid entering the elongate tubular ~~members~~ body passes through the input and output conduit portions and is retained within the intermediate portion when a longitudinal axis of the tubular member is generally horizontal;

at least one transverse port extending from the intermediate portion; and

the transverse port positioned for permitting at least a portion of the fluid to be

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retained in the intermediate portion when the longitudinal axis is generally horizontal;
and

at least one rib outwardly extending from the tubular body at a location removed from the intermediate portion for attaching to a clamping device when supporting the manifold during an installation thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 19, wherein the longitudinal axis passing through a center of the input and output ports is orthogonal to a transverse axis passing through a center of the at least one transverse port.

21. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 19, wherein the at least one rib comprises opposing first and second ribs radially extending from the elongate tubular body.

22. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 19, wherein the at least one transverse port includes ~~three transverse ports, and wherein a central axis for each of the three transverse ports lies~~ within a plane including the longitudinal axis of the tubular body.

23. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 22, wherein the at least one rib comprises opposing first and second ribs radially extending from the elongate tubular body.

24. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein the inner cross-sectional areas are circular.

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25. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the inner cross-sectional areas are circular.

26. (Currently Amended) A manifold comprising:

an elongate tubular body having a first longitudinal port and an opposing second longitudinal port for providing fluid flow through the body along a longitudinal axis thereof, the elongate tubular body having at least one effluent retention portion and at least one conduit portion formed therein, wherein the at least one effluent retention portion and the at least one conduit portion extend longitudinally along the longitudinal axis, and wherein an inner cross-sectional area of the elongate tubular ~~member~~ body for the at least one effluent retention portion is greater than the inner cross-sectional area for the at least one conduit portion such that fluid entering the elongate tubular ~~member~~ body passes through the at least one conduit portion and is retained within the at least one effluent retention portion during use of the manifold ~~having~~ when the longitudinal axis is generally horizontal;

a first transverse port positioned between the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a transverse fluid flow from a first effluent retention portion of the at least one effluent retention portion, the first transverse port having an axis within a plane of and generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis; and

a second transverse port positioned between the first transverse port and at least one of the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a second transverse fluid flow from a second effluent retention portion of the at least one retention portion, the second transverse port having an axis within the plane of ~~the~~ and generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis, wherein the first and second transverse ports extend outwardly from the longitudinal axis in opposing directions.

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27. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 26, further comprising opposing first and second ribs extending outwardly from an outside surface of the at least one conduit portion of the tubular body, wherein the first and second ribs radially extend from the longitudinal axis and are orthogonal to the plane having the transverse port axes and longitudinal axis therein, and wherein the ribs provide means for clamping to a device when supporting the manifold during an installation of the manifold.

28. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein each of the ports is closed, and wherein a cut is made in the manifold for opening a selected one of the ports for permitting fluid flow therethrough.

29. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports are centered about a the longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body.

30. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein the at least one effluent retention portion comprises first, second, and third effluent retention portions and the manifold comprises a ~~third effluent retention portion~~ and a third transverse port, and wherein the first transverse port extends from the first effluent retention portion for directing fluid flow in a first transverse direction, and the second and third transverse ports respectively extend from the second and third effluent retention portions for directing flow into a second transverse direction, which second transverse direction radially opposes the first transverse direction.

31. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 30, wherein a top plan view of the manifold comprises a mirror image of a bottom plan view of the manifold.

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32. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports comprise male and female connections respectively, each for connecting to a manifold having a similar form thereto.

33. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein the inner cross-sectional areas are circular.